

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling a network remotely, comprising:
configuring a first control unit inside a first firewall;
configuring a server outside the first firewall; and
establishing a session between the first control unit and the server, wherein establishing a session is executed using a access key.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring a second control unit inside a second firewall, the server being outside the second firewall.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the first control unit includes:
receiving server identification information;
generating an access key in the first control unit; and
sending the access key and the identification information to the server.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the server identification information includes receiving a server host name, a server IP address, and a server port number.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the server identification information includes inquiring the server from the first control unit to obtain the server IP address.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the server includes:
receiving first control unit identification information;
storing the first control unit identification information in the server;
adding the first control unit as a first remote device; and
exchanging a validation message between the first control unit and the server.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a session between the first control unit and the server includes coupling through a second firewall, the server being inside the second firewall.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising connecting between the server and a console, the console being inside the second firewall, the connecting using an IP address facing inside the second firewall.

9. A communications system, comprising:

- a first enterprise network;

- a first control unit coupled to the first enterprise network;

- a first firewall coupled to the first control unit;

- a public network; and

- a server coupled to the public network, the first control unit being configured with server information, the server being configured with first control unit information, the first control unit being further configured to send a first access key to the server, the first control unit and the server configured to establish a communication session based on the first access key.

10. The communications system of claim 9, wherein receiving the server information includes a server host name, a server IP address, and a server port number.

11. The communication system of claim 9, further comprising:

- a second firewall coupled to the public network;

- a second control unit coupled to the second firewall; and

- a second enterprise network coupled to the second control unit, the second control unit being configured with server information, the server being configured with second control unit information, the second control unit being further configured to send a second access key to the server, the second control unit and the server configured to establish a communication session based on the second access key.

12. A communications system, comprising:

a first enterprise network;

a first control unit means coupled to the first enterprise network;

a first firewall coupled to the first control unit;

a public network; and

a server means coupled to the public network, the first control unit means configured to receive server means identification information, generate a access key in the first control unit means, and send the access key and the identification information to the server means.

13. The communications system of claim 12, wherein the server means is configured to receive first control unit means identification information, store the first control unit means identification information in the server means, add the first control unit means as a first remote device, and exchange a validation message between the first control unit means and the server means.

14. The communications system of claim 13, further comprising:

a second firewall coupled to the public network;

a second control unit means coupled to the second firewall; and

a second enterprise network coupled to the second control unit, the second control unit means configured to receive server means identification information, generate a access key in the first control unit means, and send the access key and the identification information to the server means.

15. The communications system of claim 14, wherein the server means is configured to receive second control unit means identification information, store the second control unit means identification information in the server means, add the second control unit means as a second remote device, and exchange a validation message between the second control unit means and the server means.

16. A system communications system, comprising:
 - a first console configured to generate at least one request;
 - a proxy server coupled to the first console, the proxy server configured to pool the at least one request;
 - a first firewall coupled to the proxy server; and
 - a first control unit coupled to the first firewall, the first control unit configured to receive the at least one request from the proxy server, the first control unit further configured to output at least one response corresponding to the at least one request to the proxy server, the proxy server configured to output the at least one response to the first console.
17. The system of claim 16, further comprising a second console coupled to the proxy server, the second console configured to generate at least one other request, the proxy server configured to pool the at least one other request.
18. The system of claim 16, further comprising:
 - a second firewall coupled to the proxy server; and
 - a second control unit, the second control unit coupled to the second firewall, the second control unit configured to receive the at least one request from the proxy server, the second control unit further configured to output at least one response corresponding to the at least one request to the proxy server, the proxy server configured to output the at least one response to the first console.
19. The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server includes:
 - a client request handler for receiving a client request from the first console;
 - a shared request object pool coupled to the client request handler, the shared request object pool configured to store the at least one request; and
 - a server request handler coupled to the shared request object pool, the server request handler configured to read the at least one request from the shared request object pool, the server request handler configured to send the at least one request to the first control unit, the server request handler configured to receive the at least one response, the server request handler configured to output the at least one response to the first console.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server includes processor-executable code, the code performing the steps of:

- receiving a client request from the first console;
- writing the at least one request;
- reading the at least one request;
- sending the at least one request to the first control unit;
- receiving the at least one response; and
- outputting the at least one response to the first console.

21. A method for communicating, comprising:

- receiving a request from a console;
- creating a request object;
- adding the request object to a pool; and
- notifying a control unit of the request object.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

- establishing a data connection with the control unit;
- receiving a request from the control unit for the request object;
- sending the request object to the control unit;
- receiving a response from the control unit based on the request object; and
- sending the response to the console.